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Message Text

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16
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

EUR-25 DPW-01 IO-12 OMB-01 RSR-01 /121 W
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P 080348 Z MAY 73
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1316
INFO USDEL JEC PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 8016

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT PINS MILI VS
SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, MAY 7, 1973

FOL SENT ACTION FM DANANG AND RPTD FOR YOUR INFO QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L DANANG 494

E. O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINT, VS
SUBJECT: CEASEFIRE AND POLITICAL SITREP MR I, X PLUS 99,
MAY 7, 1973

1. MILITARY ACTIVITIES:

FIGHTING DURING THE THREE- DAY WEEKEND PERIOD CONTINUED AT A VERY LOW LEVEL, WITH A TOTAL OF ONLY 56 INCIDENTS REPORTED, INCLUDING ONLY FIVE GROUND ATTACKS. ALTHOUGH MOST SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY CONTINUED IN THE FIRST DIVISION TO WEST OF HUE, EVEN IN THAT VICINITY THE FIGHTING LEVEL SIGNIFICANTLY DECREASED ESPECIALLY DURING PERIOD REPORTED ON MAY 7 AT I CORPS BRIEFING. FOLLOWING ARE SIGNIFICANT STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD BROKEN OUT BY DATE BRIEFED AT I CORPS:

MAY 5: 11 INCIDENTS, INCLUDING ONE GROUND ATTACK, 9 ABF' S
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(158 MORTAR ROUNDS). CASUALTIES: FRIENDLY 6 KIA, 18 WIA, ENEMY 11 KIA, TWO CAPTURED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 2,326 ROUNDS; 1,141 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 1,185 SOUTH.

MAY 6: A TOTAL OF 23 INCIDENTS, INCLUDING THREE GROUND ATTACKS AND 18 ABF' S (25 ARTILLERY, 639 MORTAR). CASUALTIES: FRIENDLY 3 KIA, 48 WIA; ENEMY 19 KIA. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 1,764 ROUNDS; 1,150 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 614 SOUTH.

MAY 7: 12 INCIDENTS, INCLUDING ONE GROUND ATTACK AND 10 ABF' S (8 ARTILLERY ROUNDS, 195 MORTAR ROUNDS). CASUALTIES: FRIENDLY 5 KIA, 43 WIA; ENEMY 16 KIA, 1 CAPTURED. FRIENDLY ARTILLERY FIRED 1,758 ROUNDS; 703 NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS, 1,053 SOUTH.

2. PRISONER RELEASES:

AREA DIRECTOR HUE REPORTS THAT GVN AUTHORITIES HAVE SCHEDULED THE RELEASE OF SOME 650 GVN- HELD DETAINEES IN QUANG TRI OVER THE NEXT THREE DAYS. SOME 200 ARE TO ARRIVE AT PHU BAI AIRFIELD SOUTH OF HUE MORNING OF MAY 7, AND TRAVEL BY TRUCK TO THE THACH HAN RIVER EXCHANGE SITE IN QUANG TRI. A FURTHER 200 ARE SCHEDULED TO ARRIVE ON MAY 8 AND 250 MORE ON MAY 8. NO RECIPROCAL RELEASES HAVE BEEN REPORTED LOCALLY.

3. GVN ACTIVITIES:

A. TWO MEETINGS WERE HELD THIS PAST WEEK FOR ALL PUBLIC SERVANTS IN DANANG CITY BY TWO SPECIALISTS FROM SAIGON, WHO WERE TO EXPLAIN THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF PRESIDENT THIEU' S TRIP TO THE UNITED STATES AND THE POLICY OF THE GOVERNMENT. THE LIAISON OFFICER DANANG REPORTS, HOWEVER, THAT THE EXPERTS WERE UNABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS PUT TO THEM. MOST OF THE AUDIENCE LEFT DISGRUNTLED.

B. SOME 1,760 PERSONS RETURNED TO THEIR VILLAGE IN BINH SON DISTRICT AND SOME 5,120 IN SON TINH DISTRICT, QUANG NGAI, DURING THE PAST WEEK. AREA DIRECTOR QUANG NGAI REPORTS THAT THE PEOPLE OF BOTH VILLAGES RETURNED BY SEA AND WILL CONTINUE TO REQUIRE RESUPPLY BY SEA.

4. COMMUNIST ACTIVITIES:

THERE WERE SIX VC ENTRIES INTO GVN- CONTROLLED HAMLETS IN QUANG NGAI LAST WEEK, THE FIRST REPORTED FOR SOME TIME ACCORDING TO AREA DIRECTOR QUANG NGAI. THE COMMUNISTS DISTRIBUTED PROPAGANDA LEAFLETS APPEALING TO ARVN TROOPS TO DESERT AND DENOUNCING THE GVN AS THE REAL PERPETRATOR OF CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS. VILLAGERS WERE ASSEMBLED TO LISTEN TO APPEALS FOR THEM TO

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RETURN TO VC CONTROLLED AREAS.

5. ICCS:

IN A CONVERSATION WITH AREA DIRECTOR HUE, MAJOR PHAN DINH NONG, WHO RECENTLY BECAME SENIOR GVN REPRESENTATIVE ON THE QUANG TRI TPJMT (SEPTEL), SAID THAT WHILE OBSERVING THE SHOOTING AT ICCS HELICOPTERS OVER THE PRG CONTROLLED SIDE OF THE THACH HAN RIVER ON MAY 2, A POLISH COLONEL ASKED HIM " WHY THE GVN WAS FIRING" AT THE AIRCRAFT. NONG JUST LIFTED HIS SHOULDERS AND SIGHED; HE COMMENTED TO AREA DIRECTOR, " WHAT WILL THEY DREAM UP NEXT?"
THOMS UNQUOTE
WHITEHOUSE

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